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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1950



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.	Dr. JOHN RIGBY, M.B, Ch.B, D.P.H.
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.	R.H. GRAYSON, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.	R. POTTS, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.	F.C. RYDING, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

In addition the Department has a full-time clerk (female)

A Rodent Officer/Operative (part-time) is also employed.

Outside Staff is engaged on Scavenging.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
GILLIBRAND STREET,
CHORLEY. LANCs.

October, 1951.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1950.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report for the year 1950.

AREA.

No change took place in the District during 1950, and the area remains at 41,111 acres or 64.23 square miles.

The District encircles the Municipal Borough of Chorley, and is bounded on the North by Walton-le-Dale U.D. Leyland U.D. and Preston R.D. on the South by Wigan R.D. Standish U.D. Adlington U.D. and Horwich U.D. on the West by West Lancashire R.D. and on the East by Blackburn R.D. Withnell U.D. and Turton U.D.

The District is varied in character, and whilst there is considerable industry, some parts of the District are delightful pieces of country.

Agriculture of course predominates in the area which has its share of rich agricultural land. In addition there is of course cotton spinning and weaving, mining, the Royal Ordnance Factory in the District is an industry on its own, brickmaking is carried on in several parishes, and the old established work of basket making is still carried on in Mawdesley. There are in addition vast industries in some of the adjoining areas which provide work for residents of the District.

POPULATION.

The estimated population (Registrar-General's figure) for mid-1950 is 27,510, again the highest on record.

The following figures giving the population since 1942 show the variation:-

<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>
25,900	24,970	25,510	24,420	25,430	26,150	26,940	27,360	27,510

The census figure for 1931 was 23,633.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The estimated number of inhabited houses at the end of 1950 was 7,990.


The only unoccupied houses in the District are derelict.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The Rateable Value of the District is £178,258, the sum represented by a Penny Rate is £710.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

Swabs are examined at General Hospitals serving this area and results are obtained quickly.



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STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate	398	208	190
Illegitimate	18	6	12
	<u>416</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>202</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population - 15.0
 Birth Rate per 1,000 civilian population for mid 1950
 England and Wales - 15.8

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate	10	4	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

The Rate per 1,000 civilian population - 0.36
 The Rate per 1,000 civilian population for England and
 Wales. - 0.37

<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Deaths	340	184	156

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population mid 1950 - 13.0
 The Death Rate per 1,000 civilian population for England and
 Wales - 11.6

INFANTILE DEATHS.

The Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live
 births is 38.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The following tables give figures for the past 9 years for the purpose
 of comparison:-

YEAR	LIVE BIRTH RATE		STILLBIRTH RATE	DEATH RATE		INFANTILE DEATH RATE	MATERNAL DEATHS
	Chorley R.D.	England and Wales	Chorley R.D. (per 1,000 live and still births)	Chorley R.D.	England and Wales	Chorley R.D. (per 1,000 live births)	Chorley R.D.
1942	15.8	15.8	50.0	11.0	11.6	43	2
1943	18.3	16.5	38.0	12.0	12.1	52	2
1944	19.3	17.6	33.5	11.6	11.6	33	2
1945	15.2	16.1	42.0	11.9	11.4	50	-
1946	18.2	19.1	27.0	10.5	11.5	36	1
1947	20.4	20.5	27.0	12.3	12.0	50	-
1948	18.1	17.9	25.0	10.4	10.8	32	-
1949	15.9	16.7	18.0	12.5	11.7	32	-
1950	15.0	15.8	23.0	13.0	11.6	38	-

STATISTICS:(Contd.)

YEAR	DEATHS FROM			
	CANCER (all ages)	MEASLES. (all ages)	WHOPING COUGH. (all ages)	DIARRHOEA. (under 2 years of age)
1942	43	-	2	3
1943	32	-	-	1
1944	51	-	-	1
1945	42	-	1	-
1946	38	-	-	-
1947	42	-	2	3
1948	45	-	-	2
1949	27	-	1	1
1950	50	-	1	-

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE	Males	Females	Total.
Tuberculosis (all forms)	5	1	6
Whooping Cough	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	1
Other infectious parasitic diseases	3	-	3
Cancer (all forms)	27	23	50
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	27	20	47
Heart Diseases	71	64	135
Diseases of Circulatory System	4	7	11
Influenza	2	3	5
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	6	9	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcers of Stomach	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis	2	-	2
Nephritis	5	1	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and illdefined diseases	14	16	30
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	-	4
All other accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	3	1	4
Total	184	156	340

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Isolation Hospital at Heath Charnock provides accommodation for all infectious cases.

The total number of cases notified during 1950 was 233 a decrease of 397 on last year and the lowest since 1946.

Reference to pages 5 and 7 show that the decrease is due largely to the fall in the number of cases of Measles, Scarlet Fever cases are 65 fewer and Whooping Cough 33 higher.

There was only one case of Diphtheria.

There were three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis in the District, all were treated in Hospital and all recovered.

There was also one case of food poisoning.

Page 6 gives the number of cases of notifiable diseases in each parish.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

Terminal Disinfection is still carried out and during the year 52 disinfections were done.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											Total Deaths	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS - YEARS.											Total cases removed to hospital from the District	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the district.
		C-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65. & over	Age unknown			
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	39	-	2	12	17	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	38	-
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Enteric or typhoid fever (excl. paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excl. Rubella)	64	-	11	19	30	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	96	5	31	28	29	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	20	3	-	-	1	-	8	-	4	2	2	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis Paralytic	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria Contracted In England and Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Abroad)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Any other disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	233	8	44	59	79	8	13	3	9	2	8	-	42	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR, 1950, FROM THE VARIOUS TOWNSHIPS.

TOWNSHIP	ACUTE PNEUMONIA	DIPHTHERIA	ERYSIPELAS	FOOD POISONING	MEASLES	POLIOMYELITIS	PUERPERAL PYREXIA	SCARLET FEVER	WHOOPING COUGH	TOTAL
Anderton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	9
Inglezarke	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bretherton	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	1	9
Brindle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Charnock Richard	2	-	1	-	9	-	-	-	6	18
Clayton-le-Woods	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	6
Coppull	4	-	-	1	9	-	-	8	47	69
Croston	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	7
Guarden	1	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	7
Eccleston	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	7
Buxton	2	-	-	-	11	-	-	6	1	20
Reapey	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
Heath Charnock	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	6	9	19
Beskin	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	4
Hoghton	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	7
Mawdesley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	8
Pivington	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ilkley Walton	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	3	-	11
Wheelton	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	3	9
Whittle-le-Woods.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	16
Totals	20	1	6	1	64	3	3	39	96	233

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST 9 YEARS.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	YEAR								
	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	39	104	172	51	61	55	69	74	90
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	1	1	2	6	6	24	13	31	47
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella)	64	402	178	252	40	277	84	306	140
Whooping Cough	96	63	49	125	16	56	94	50	64
Acute pneumonia (Primary and influenzal)	20	54	13	21	11	14	19	34	16
Puerperal pyrexia	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7
Acute poliomyelitis	3	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Acute polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	40	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	1	3
Erysipelas	6	4	1	2	2	6	6	8	6
Malaria {		Contracted- In England and Wales							
Malaria {		abroad							
Food poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Any other diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	233	630	417	467	177	433	290	507	377

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<u>Years.</u>								
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
25-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45-	3	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
55-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	20		8		6		-	

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE PAST 9 YEARS.

Age periods	1940		1949		1943		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942	
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths
Years																		
0-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	1	2	1	-	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	4	-
5-	8	-	8	-	2	-	4	1	5	1	7	-	3	-	6	1	4	-
10-	-	-	2	1	1	-	6	-	2	1	2	-	9	-	4	-	1	-
15-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	4	2	2	-	1	-	3	-	5	1
20-	2	1	4	-	1	-	2	-	5	-	7	1	4	-	6	1	4	1
25-	5	-	5	-	4	1	4	1	6	1	6	-	5	1	5	4	8	2
35-	1	2	5	2	2	-	4	1	2	2	3	2	3	1	6	1	3	-
45-	4	3	3	3	1	-	-	-	5	-	3	2	2	2	4	1	6	2
55-	3	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	5	1	5	2	-	-
65- & upwards	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	28	6	32	11	14	1	28	3	33	9	33	10	32	5	42	10	36	6

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the water supplied by the Council through its mains is obtained in bulk from Manchester Corporation, and is under constant supervision and examination.

The scheme for supplying the parishes of Brindle and Hoghton progressed during the year but was not completed.

As a result of the new main in Hoghton and Brindle and also the scheme carried out in Mawdesley during 1949 a considerable number of houses were provided with an adequate supply of water, in pipes, for the first time. The following list shows the number of existing houses in the three parishes mentioned which were provided with such a supply.

Brindle	36
Hoghton	77
Mawdesley	8
	<u>121</u>

SEWERAGE

Clayton-le-Woods, Harhey, Theelton and Whittle-le-Woods

The sewerage scheme embracing parts of the above mentioned four parishes was agreed to in principle by the Ministry in 1948. It was not until 1950, however, that actual work on the scheme was started, unfortunately the weather during the whole of the time the work was in progress was bad, difficult ground was also encountered, and as a result the progress was very slow. This scheme was conceived over twenty years ago and if progress was slow in 1950, it was, I think, much better than during the last twenty years.

Coppull, Charnock Richard, Heskin, Eccleston and Croston

This scheme was also agreed to by the Ministry in 1948 and whilst it was not possible to start the work in 1950 a starting date in the Spring of 1951 was agreed to. This scheme also has been under consideration for many years, and to know that actual work will commence shortly is satisfactory, this means that there will be two major sewerage schemes in progress at one time before the middle of 1951.

Brindle and Hoghton.

During the year under review progress was made with two small schemes, one at Brindle for the area around Brindle Mill, and the second for part of Gib Lane, Hoghton, and the Straits, Hoghton.

These two schemes are small but none the less important, when completed the drainage from approximately 100 houses will be properly treated, the pollution caused by the present means of disposal will cease and it will be possible for these properties to be provided with a water closet. Once the major schemes are under way it is important that consideration be given to providing sewers in parts of some of the smaller parishes.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

My first remark under this heading is one I have made several times, and one that is likely to be true for some time to come yet, it is that there are still large numbers of both pail closets and privy middens in the District. Every effort was made, however, in 1950 to get conversions carried out, and whilst the number so converted was not huge, steady progress was maintained. We set ourselves a target of 100 in the year and this was attained, actually 130 water closets were provided in place of pails and privy middens.

Seven privy middens were converted to pail closets.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (Contd.)

The number carried out in the various parishes is given below.

The second table shows the total number converted each year since to war.

CONVERSIONS CARRIED OUT IN 1950.

Parish	Pails to W.Cs.	Privies to W.Cs.	Privies to Pails	Totals.
Anderton	2	-	-	2
Clayton-le-Woods	2	-	-	2
Corpull	45	18	6	69
Croston	3	9	-	12
Eccleston	3	2	-	5
Euxton	15	-	-	15
Heath Charnock	1	-	-	1
Ulnes Walton	1	-	1	2
Wheelton	17	-	-	17
Whittle-le-Woods	12	-	-	12
Totals.	101	29	7	137

CONVERSIONS CARRIED OUT 1940 - 1950

Year(s)	Pails to W.Cs.	Privies to W.Cs.	Privies to Pails	Totals
1940 - 1945	21	50	44	115
1946	25	15	4	44
1947	12	38	21	71
1948	62	51	23	136
1949	120	51	6	177
1950	101	29	7	137
Totals.	341	234	105	680

Included in these conversions are the water closets provided at the Wheelton Council School, to replace a number of pail closets which were in a very bad state structurally.

SCAVENGING.

The whole of the area is now scavenged by direct labour.

Six Karrior Bantam refuse collectors are in regular use and another similar vehicle is available as a spare. The work involves both wet and dry scavenging. Nightsoil is disposed of by filtering through straw, lagooning and mixing with ashes, dust etc. and is ultimately used on the land, the system is crude and when the new sewage disposal works are completed it is hoped to dispose of this material by emptying in specially selected manholes.

Dry refuse is disposed of at numerous tips throughout the District, the scattered nature of which makes centralised tipping impossible, and the control of tips very difficult indeed.

As you are aware tipping takes place at Croston in a disused flooded clay pit at the Brickworks near the station. Tipping has been carried on here for many years and has never given serious trouble until 1950, when almost overnight the water comparatively clean, changed into a liquid giving off a most offensive odour, and at the same time killing all the fish in it. The cause of this was that the PH value of the water reached a stage at which sulphur reducing organisms in the water multiplied and at the same time liberated sulphuretted hydrogen which produced the foul smell, after a period of a few weeks, during which the best method of treatment was under consideration, the water again changed and gradually the foulness disappeared. Since that time water has been pumped from the pit and the level lowered, this reduced level has been maintained in the pit which is fed from the bottom and the dilution through changing the water should help to avoid such trouble in the future.

DUSTBINS.

The moveable receptacle for refuse, the ordinary dustbin, has become surrounded with difficulties. Some Authorities have instituted Municipal schemes for the replacement of worn out bins. In this area this has not been done and notices continue to be served. It was necessary at the end of the year to serve a Statutory Notice under section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and this Notice was complied with. More such notices are likely to be required in the future as it is proving more and more difficult to get worn out bins replaced.

SALVAGE

Following the cancellation of the Direction to collect salvage the value of paper salvage fell and difficulty was experienced in selling the reduced amount collected. For a large part of the year, therefore, there was no incentive to separate this waste and as a result the quantity collected in 1950 was only 23 tons. 15 cwt. 3 qrs. Towards the end of the year, however, the demand for this waste grew steadily and the price increased. The bonus scheme for the men again came into operation in December and the quantity collected increased.

No collection of Kitchen waste is made in the Rural District.

FOOD.

Centralised slaughtering continued throughout 1950 so that there was no routine inspection of fresh killed meat.

Several owners of private slaughter-houses have, however, continued to renew their licences and these premises have been used primarily for the slaughter of pigs for self suppliers of meat. Some pigs are of course slaughtered at the homes of the producers and a list of persons who do this work has been made. At the end of 1950 there were 3 names on the list. Animals so killed are stunned prior to killing.

Numerous inspections of various foods were made during the year and in some cases the articles were found unfit for human consumption. The following is a list of such articles.

17 x 16 ozs. Cans of Condensed Milk.
15 lbs. Butter.
12 x 20 ozs. Cans of Plums.
11 lbs. Boiled Ham.

MILK.

Early in the year there was a case of milk containing tubercle bacilli. Statutory action was not necessary, the farmer was eager to co-operate in removing the danger, and immediate arrangements were made for pasteurising the milk until such time as it was found satisfactory.

The following licences were issued during the year.

Dealer's licence to use Special Designation Pasteurised	1
Dealer's licence to use Special Designation Sterilized	10
Dealer's licence to use Special Designation Tuberculin Tested	4

ICE CREAM.

There was no change in the number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Several more premises were registered for the storage and sale of the commodity during the year, and with one exception these premises were fitted with electrical storage units.

The manufacturers with one exception are small, several in a very small way indeed, making only what they retail themselves.

At the end of the year the number on the register was:-

Registered for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale	10
Registered for the Storage and Sale only.	37
Total	<u>47</u>

The total at the end of 1949 was 35

The total at the end of 1948 was 20

Not all persons with premises registered for manufacture are actually making ice cream, one person in Hoghton so registered is actually buying ice cream, and using his premises only for the storage and sale of it.

SCHOOLS.

The school Medical Services are administered by the County Council and separate reports issued.

There are 32 schools in the District including the Rivington and Blackrod Grammar School.

Water Supply.

At the end of the previous year 30 out of the 32 schools had a piped supply of water from the Councils mains. During 1950 the Brindle and Hoghton water scheme made it possible for the school at Hoghton to have main water, and in the near future the village school at Brindle will be so provided, this means that these schools now have an adequate supply of wholesome water.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The work of closet conversion, from pails to water closets, was completed at the Wheelton Council School, and the whole drainage system and closet accommodation was redesigned and modernised at St. Joseph's R.C. School at Coppull.

At the end of the year 16 schools, half the total, enjoyed water closets while the other half was still served by closets of the pail type.

Certain schools have plans for alteration and improvements but usually these plans are part of larger schemes and may not be carried out for some considerable time.

CAMPING.

Little trouble has been experienced with caravans in this area but it is noticeable that there is an increase in the use of vans generally, and this is evident in this area by the increase in the number of applications for licences.

The number of applications from genuine campers are few, normally they only relate to vans intended for use as permanent homes, brought about largely by the shortage of houses.

One application for a licence to use approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land as a camping site was refused during the year.

Action was also taken which resulted in a horse drawn type van, in an overcrowded condition, being vacated and later removed from the District.

A survey of the vans in the District was made during the year and in addition to several which were licensed it was found that many, for various reasons, were exempt, the list below gives the number of vans in each category.

Two applications for individual vans were made in 1950 and two licences were granted.

Number of individually licensed vans	2
Number of vans exempt	19
Number of vans unlicensed and used as permanent dwellings	4
Number of vans unlicensed and used only occasionally	7

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There are in the District approximately 20 factory chimneys, none have given rise to complaint which is not surprising considering the scattered nature of the District.

Ten of these chimneys are at Cotton Mills in the area, and use of separate motors for machines will tend to reduce the generation of smoke.

HOUSING.

The provision of new houses continued throughout 1950, the number erected was 118, of these 95 were erected by the Local Authority and 23 by other persons. This brings the total, including 50 temporary bungalows, up to 517 since the war.

The Housing Survey was completed during the year, the work being simplified to allow this to be done.

The final figures are:-

Category.

1. Satisfactory in all respects	2498
2. Minor defects only	2159
3. Houses needing structural alterations	1500
4. Houses suitable for reconditioning under Rural workers Acts	NIL
5. Houses which should be demolished	643

TOTAL

6,800

During the year it was necessary to take action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of two houses which were in a dangerous condition. The tenants were rehoused and the condemned cottages partly demolished, the site was not actually cleared.

One undertaking accepted in 1949 was determined when the house, Blanket Hall, Houghton, was made fit.

Action under Section 11, was commenced regarding another property but the notices had not expired at the end of the year.

HOUSING (Contd.)

The total number of houses dealt with since the war is now 9, of these 3 have been demolished, 3 undertakings accepted, 1 undertaking determined, and 3 houses, because of their situation in the middle of a row are still left.

SHOPS.

The Sanitary Inspectors carry out shop inspections under an arrangement with the County Council.

The majority of shops in the area are small house-shops, run privately by the occupier and his family, the number engaging assistants is small.

No. of inspections made in 1950 - 198.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

A considerable amount of work was again performed under the Public Health Act.

209 nuisances were discovered and 233 were abated, in some cases these comprise several nuisances in individual houses, and some were carried over from the previous year.

The number of Informal notices served was 209.

24 Statutory Notices relating to 19 properties were served in 1950, the largest number recorded.

In addition there were six notices carried over from 1949.

13 Statutory Notices were complied with including the six carried over from the previous year.

INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections carried out during the year was 4814.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

62 Licences were issued during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

The prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, came into operation on March 31st. 1950.

Prior to this date rodent control work in the area had been carried out under delegated powers from the County Council and in co-operation with the Ministry. The new law places the duty directly on the Council, Section 2 of the Act is very definite in this respect and commences:- "It shall be the duty of every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure so far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice".

Few complaints were received during the year but a certain amount of reinspection was carried out, a number of infestations were found but nothing of a serious nature.

Co-operation with the County Agricultural Executive Committee was maintained.

Council properties, sewers, sewage disposal works and tips were kept under constant observations and at no time gave rise to complaint.

RODENT CONTROL. (Contd.)

The following figures indicate the work done in connection with Rodent Control during the nine months since the Act became operative.

1 PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE.							
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)
		Number of properties in Local Authority's Area			Analysis of Column (iv)		
TYPE OF PROPERTY.	Total	in which infestation was			Number infested by		
		Notified by Occupier	other wise discovered	Recorded Total of (ii) & (iii)	Rats		Mice only.
					Major	Minor	
Local Authority's Property	25	16	-	16	3	7	NIL
Dwelling House	6937	9	3	12	-	12	NIL
Business Premises	440	2	-	2	-	2	NIL
Agricultural Property	675	2	1	3	1	2	NIL
Total	8077	29	4	33	4	23	NIL

2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

TYPE OF PROPERTY	No. of Properties inspected	No of inspections made	Number of Notices served under Section 4.		Number of treatments carried out. ϕ				Block treatment of properties in different occupancies under Section 6 (1) or by informal arrangement		
					By arrangement with occupier		Under Section 5 (1)				
			Treat ment	Works	Rats	Mice only	Rats	Mice only	Number of blocks	Surface of Number of Sep- arate occup- ancies	Assoc. Sewers Number of Manholes treated.
Local Authority's property	16	64	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dwelling House	49	171	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Business Premises	3	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agricult ural property	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	71	249	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-

c Include under this heading properties infested with both rats and mice,

ϕ Excluding treatments included under block treatments.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following Table summarises the work done in connection with factories during the year:-

PART 1 OF THE ACT.				
1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health				
Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	13	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	30	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. out-workers premises)	10	10	-	-
TOTAL	100	45	2	-

PART 1 OF THE ACT.					
2. Cases in which defects were found.					
Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	6	-	4	-

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Rigby

Medical Officer of Health.

